



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Volunteers Celebrated National Public Lands Day in the Black Rock Desert**

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Photo, Video, Interview Opportunity

**Black Rock NCA, Nevada (October 3, 2017)** – Volunteers spent the weekend of September 29th – October 1st, 2017, celebrating National Public Lands Day in the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness partnered the Winnemucca Bureau of Land Management to host a celebration for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual National Public Lands Day. On Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a group of approximately 35 volunteers broke into small teams to tackle a wide range of stewardship projects in the Black Rock Desert. One group installed data loggers that measure the temperature and flow of the hot springs at Soldier Meadows. This project is part of an on-going study that helps monitor the habitat for the threatened Desert Dace, a fish that is only found in the springs at Soldier Meadows. Another team surveyed the area for invasive plant species, as Soldier Meadows is home to one of two locations of the Basalt Cinquefoil, a noxious weed that is of critical concern. The public use cabin at Soldier Meadows also got an update: volunteers worked on repair and maintenance projects and gave the cabin a good cleaning. Lastly, a few of our most rugged volunteers dug holes and put in signage to mark eight miles of the southern boundary of the North Black Rock Wilderness.

After a long day of hard work – and play for the young ones with Nevada Outdoor School's Kids Camp – on America's public lands, attendees competed in the annual Dutch Oven Cook Off and discovered the natural wonders and starry nights of the Black Rock NCA.

### **About Friends of Nevada Wilderness**

Founded in 1984, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has helped protect over 3 million acres of Nevada's wild lands by leading efforts in the expansion or designation of all 70 Wilderness areas in the state, including Mt. Rose Wilderness and North Black Rock Wilderness. Over the past thirty-two years, the Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Program has generated over \$1,000,000 of in-kind services to benefit Nevada's public lands. For more information, visit <http://www.nevadawilderness.org/>.

For photos of this year's National Public Lands Day celebrations, [visit our Flickr page](#).  
Attached Photo: Group photo of volunteers, September, 2017. Credit: Ashlyn Moreno

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